

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 /074 W

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O 141140Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4312

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP TH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 4949

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD ENDING  
NOON APRIL 14

### 1. GENERAL

THE CENTER OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM REMAINS  
XUAN LOC, WHERE THERE WAS LIGHT AND SPORADIC ACTIVITY  
THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13 AND THE MORNING  
APRIL 14. GVN FORCES ARE HOLDING THEIR POSITIONS AND THE  
TOWN. THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN THE DELTA FELL OFF  
SOMEWHAT, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ROSE SLIGHTLY.  
ROUTE 4 IN VINH LONG HAS BEEN REOPENED, AND TRAFFIC IS NOW MOVING.

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### 2. MR 3

THE FIGHTING AT XUAN LOC DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A SERIES OF LIGHT, SPORADIC ATTACKS ON THE DEFENDERS OF THE CITY THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13 AND THE MORNING OF APRIL 14. ALTHOUGH THE CITY HAS BEEN HEAVILY DAMAGED, IT REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THE GVN. THE GVN REPORTS THAT THE TOTAL NVA KILLED SINCE THE ATTACKS ON XUAN LOC BEGAN IS NOW 1804, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GVN ARTILLERY, WHICH HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE.

VNAF LAUNCHED AIR STRIKES AGAINST AN NVA CONVOY ON ROUTE 322 20 KMS NORTH OF XUAN LOC THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13. MANY SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED. AN A-37 WAS SHOT DOWN DURING THE ATTACKS APPARENTLY BY TANK-MOUNTED ANTI-AIRCRAFT.

TAY NINH RECEIVED AT LEAST 20 ROUNDS OF 155MM ARTILLERY THE MORNING OF APRIL 14. MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS TO THE TAY NINH HOSPITAL. THE HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD AND LABORATORY WERE DESTROYED, AND THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE CASUALTY.

### 3. MR4

ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA INCREASED SLIGHTLY, THERE WAS A SHARP DROP IN INTENSITY. ROUTE 4 WAS RE-OPENED IN VINH LONG THE EVENING OF APRIL 13, AND TRAFFIC IS NOW MOVING ALONG THE HIGHWAY. THE PEOPLES SELF-DEFENSE FORCE IN BINH MINH DISTRICT FOUGHT WELL AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN KEEPING THE ATTACKERS OUT OF SEVERAL AREAS. CORPS REPORTS THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE MOSTLY SOUTHERNERS WITH LOW MORALE, AND ON ONE OCCASION THEY WERE FORCED AT GUNPOINT BY THEIR NORTHERN LEADERS TO KEEP FIGHTING.

THE GVN WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL IN KIEN PHONG. NVA FORCES THERE HAVE SCORED SOME GAINS IN THANH BINH DISTRICT INCLUDING ORVERRUNNING A VILLAGE OFFICE, AND RF/PF ARE ABANDONING SOME POSITIONS UNDER PRESSURE. TERRITORIALS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE PROVINCE ARE FIGHTING WELL.

### 4. UNIT REORGANIZATION

REORGANIZATION AND REFITTING OF UNITS BROKEN UP IN  
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MRS I AND II IS PROCEEDING RAPIDLY. WITHIN A SHORT TIME THE ENTIRE MARINE DIVISION AND MORE THAN 25 BNS OF INFANTRY AND RANGERS WILL BE COMBAT READY. EACH REGIMENTAL-SIZE UNIT WILL HAVE AN ORGANIC ARTILLERY BN. THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF XUAN LOC AND PROGRESS IN RECONSTITUTING UNITS HAS LED TO A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN JGS MORALE.

MARTIN

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NNN

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